PROGRAMMABLE Q-ORDERED SETS FOR IN-BAND LINK SIGNALING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a network having nodes that operate according to a protocol that defines a node as being in an idle mode when the node is not transmitting or receiving a packet, a method of communicating between nodes during the idle mode. A message formatted according to the protocol is generated. The message is different from messages predefined by the protocol for transmission during the idle mode. For example, the message can comprise a first portion that reports a link status condition. The message can further comprise a second portion that reports a cause of the link status condition. The message is transmitted from a first node of the network when the first node is in the idle mode. The message is received at a second node of the network when the second node is in the idle mode.

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